



# TOGETHER

*only physically apart*

[NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk](http://NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk)

## What is on your heart?

Revd Nathan Falla

Ever since the first lockdown in March, I have felt that within myself there has been a tension between almost feeling numb because the situation seems too big for me to be able to respond to adequately, and feeling energised about the possibilities, opportunities and creativity that is possible at the time. I have found it helpful to sometimes write and to reflect to enable me to process some of what is happening, writing the song *Christ you come* was particularly helpful. There can be great power in words and this past Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> November), I was so encouraged as part of the normal post YouTube service Zoom chat, that Norma Rennie from Charles Street shared with us the following, that she had penned that morning. It seems appropriate (with Norma's permission) to share this, and it will also feature in our worship this coming Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup> November).

*Once again it is Sunday, No church to worship in  
Sitting at the laptop, Waiting to begin.  
Although it seems impersonal, The worship is not vain,  
For Jesus still upholds us in loneliness and pain.  
The worship and the message, Lift our hearts to praise and bless  
The Lord of all creation, For His love and righteousness.  
So do not be discouraged, This too will pass us by  
And again together we will be worshipping our God on high.  
The church will again be open, We will fellowship as one  
For throughout all the ages God has always won.  
There is no place for doubts Call on the Lord, He is here  
Let faith lift our spirits and wipe away that tear.  
God holds us in His palm He sees our every move  
So on this day of worship Let us accept His free love.  
So if we feel lonely or in pain Pick up the phone and share  
There are others feeling lost with nobody to care.  
In thinking of others around you your attitude will soar  
For God is the Rewarder and wants to give you more.*

Do you have a reflection that you would like to share? Has your creativity been stirred? This is a space where you can share what is on your heart.

Keep safe, take care & God bless

Nathan



## 1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November for our service hosted by friends from around the Circuit. The preacher will be the Revd Loraine Mellor (Chair of the Nottingham & Derby District).

Find it on the 'Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) why not invite a friend to watch it with you and share the link with them on your social media or by email!

## 2. Circuit 'Zoom' Coffee Time

Join folk from across the circuit from 11:30am each Sunday morning - you provide the coffee - we'll provide the fellowship! pop in for 5 minutes or half an hour - we'd love to see you!

If you'd like help to 'Zoom', please get in touch!

### Please join us afterwards

Come with a drink and a biscuit to share in conversation after the service.

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: Tog3ther

Phone: 0131 460 1196  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: 48647472



## 3. Radio Services

**BBC Radio 4** (Also [online](#).)  
08:10am – 22<sup>nd</sup> November

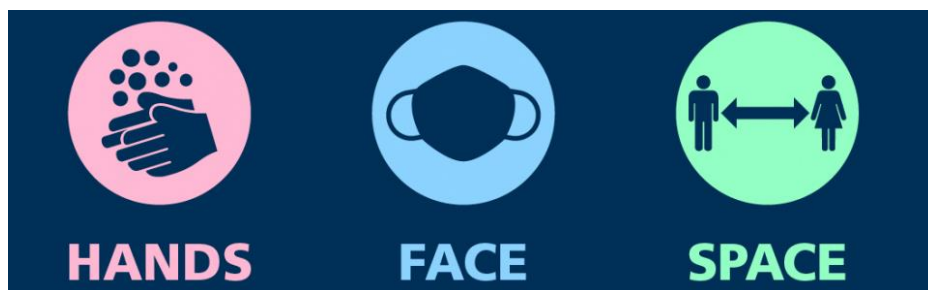
### Liberation in Lockdown.

A live service from Holy Trinity, Platt in Manchester exploring the experiences of the nearby student community during lock down. Led by the Revd Dr Paul Mathole and Sarah Bradley.

## 4. Radio Nottingham

Listen every Sunday, at 8am, to a live church service on BBC Radio Nottingham. (Online or on 95.1-103.8 MHz FM for free.)

*If any of this baffles you – call your minister*



## Hands, face, space

*reflecting on hospitality and generosity as we explore learning and caring as a way of life*

Our Sunday Sermon | Luke 10:25-37 | Revd Loraine Mellor

Just recently I have heard the following words an awful lot hands, face, and space.

Hands, so that as we deal with this pesky virus we wash our hands often and wash them well. Face, we cover our mouth and noses with a face mask and space we keep as far apart from others as possible or at least 2 metres. Those three words kept coming back to me as I thought about this reading from Luke's gospel. So let us look at it and I will explain what I mean.

This story is one we know really well, told to us in Sunday school, acted out at special services by the junior church it has as its central theme that of discipleship and that is a golden thread running through the whole of the Luke's gospel.

This story provides us with a typical way of how the Jewish people and especially a rabbi, priests and lawyers ask and answer questions, and of course Jesus being a Jew turns around the question asked of him and as one would expect the questioner the expert, a lawyer quotes Deuteronomy and Leviticus. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind."

This lawyer knows the law, he knows the Torah, and so Jesus to drill the point home, tells a story. In this story we see and experience the different attitudes and actions of the participants and I always want to ask the question 'what on earth were the Priest and the Levite thinking about by passing by on the other side of the road' and 'why on earth would anyone want to leave a man dying on the side of the road.' They washed there hands of him, they could not face him, and they certainly gave him plenty of space.

The man who had been attacked saw them coming "Thank you God" he must have prayed 'help is at hand' but disappointment number one, the priest of all people crossed over to the other side of the road. Then the Levite comes and crosses over, disappointment number two! Did they pass by, did they keep their distance, did they wash their hands of him, did they look at him in the face? Yes they did but was this because they had lost their faith, lost their way, they did not want to be attacked themselves, or did they not want be defiled by touching the body of the dying man which would make them unclean. Often the commentators say about this passage, its best not to speculate as to why they did not

respond, why they turned their faces away, why they washed their hands of the situation and why they then crossed over the other side of the road. I challenge that theory, I want to know why they did not act when they could see the man suffering, I want to challenge and comment on their non-action.

The major difference between the Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan is not what they see and hear but what they do with what they see and hear. For us today the pain of the world is such that sometimes we just don't know where to start, especially in this Covid times, we say things to ourselves like: 'If I do get involved I might be overwhelmed, it might be too much for me' 'being a good neighbour helping the man on the road does it mean I have meet his **every** need?' What we have to do as church today is not to meet every need, but to listen intently to the needs around us and respond where we can. Sometimes, we will be seen as the good Samaritan and perhaps too we might be seen by the outside world and those that don't know us as the Priest and the Levite if we don't respond. So while we are being seen by some, those who we are helping, supporting and providing hospitality to as the good Samaritan others may look on and will be seeing us as the Priest and the Levite because we are not helping them, or their group or their situation; not providing them with hospitality, not meeting their needs.

Luke our district administrator told us last week of a T-shirt that his wife has that is one of her favourites and it says on it **"Take time to be kind"**. I agree with the sentiment, stop, listen, take time to see where the need is, and then once discovered where the dying man is lying, be kind and in so doing you show mercy, you demonstrate hospitality. Yes you put on your mask to protect the other person because you value them, you wash your hands, not to wash your hands to rid yourself of the situation but to engage with it, and you don't keep your distance, because you do as Jesus would do, as the good Samaritan did when he saw the greatest need and in so doing you demonstrate what discipleship is all about.

There is a second part to this sermon about how we can offer hospitality and show generosity as churches and individuals in practical ways, but you know what they are and you are doing many of them.

So for now hands, face and space, because these are the things that are keeping you alive and in keeping those things at the forefront of your minds by your actions, by your prayers, you are the Good Samaritan. Amen.



## Prayer Space

Gracious God,  
whose loving kindness has no limits,  
teach us afresh the way of Christ.  
Where we have felt discouraged,  
renew us through signs of hope;  
where we have been tempted  
to give up,  
grant us strength and faith  
to face the day;  
where we have grown anxious  
about the future,  
give us courage to plant the seeds of  
tomorrow in acts of radical love today.  
Renew us by your Spirit  
and set us free to serve you  
so that the whole creation may rejoice  
in your name. Amen.

Richard Andrew, Darlington District Chair  
Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019/20

Jesus says, "Love" and I say, "Who?"  
Jesus says, "Give" and I say, "What?"  
Jesus says, "Follow" and I say,  
"Where?"

And Jesus says:  
"Whoever, whatever, whenever."

Jesus, help me to respond to your call  
with everything that I am  
and everything that I have.  
Let me hold nothing back in response  
to your great love for me. Amen.

Rachel Parkinson, Wolverhampton &  
Shrewsbury District Chair  
Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019/20

### EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

*If you would like to join the prayer chain  
and receive prayer requests or have a  
prayer request (with permission of the  
recipient) please get in touch with Colin...  
Colin Beckett [colin1244@gmail.com](mailto:colin1244@gmail.com).  
It is for those in any church or none!*

## Dial-a-sermon

Can't get onto the YouTube Service? Want to  
hear the Sunday sermon? Dial up at any time of  
the day or night at the cost of a local call.

Press option 3 for the Sunday Sermon  
(Sermons go live each Sunday.)

### Dial a Sermon

**01636 552255**

Listen to the circuit sermon  
each week.

Newark and Southwell  
Methodist Circuit  
helping you stay connected  
whilst we're apart.



## Hymns for the service

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service...

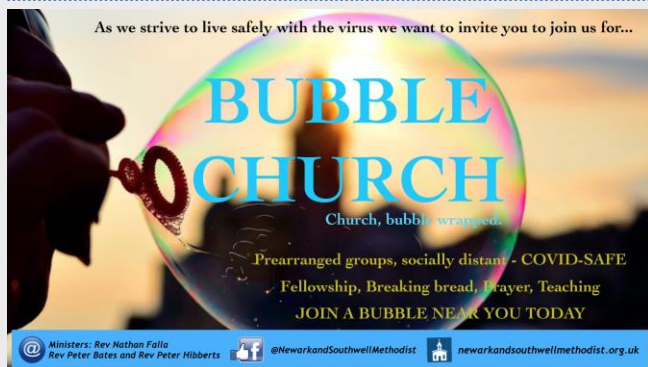
*God is love: his the care* – StF 403 - [LINK](#)

*Would you walk by on the other side* – StF 257 - [LINK](#)

*Hear the call of the kingdom* – StF 407 - [LINK](#)

Click 'LINK's to access YouTube clips of each song.

## Bubble Church Resources



**Would you like to be part of Covid-Safe face-to-face church?  
Join a bubble today by getting in touch with your minister.**

*The following questions are designed to get you thinking and, if you're involved in Bubble Church talking about the topic!*

1. Why do you think the Priest and the Levite crossed over the road?
2. Share/or think about how you have been a good neighbour during lockdown and have demonstrated generosity.
3. Jesus tells the lawyer to 'go and do likewise' and he wanted him to show mercy. How do we show mercy today as individuals and as church to our neighbours and our communities?
4. In what ways are we able to show hospitality to others at this time?

For more information checkout the Bubble Church guide with risk assessment on the Circuit Website:  
<https://www.newarkandsouthwellmethodist.org.uk/newsroom/bubble-church.html>

## Advent is approaching...

Next week we begin our Advent journey with a service from the church family at Southwell for the first Sunday in Advent. The preacher will be Val Fowles.

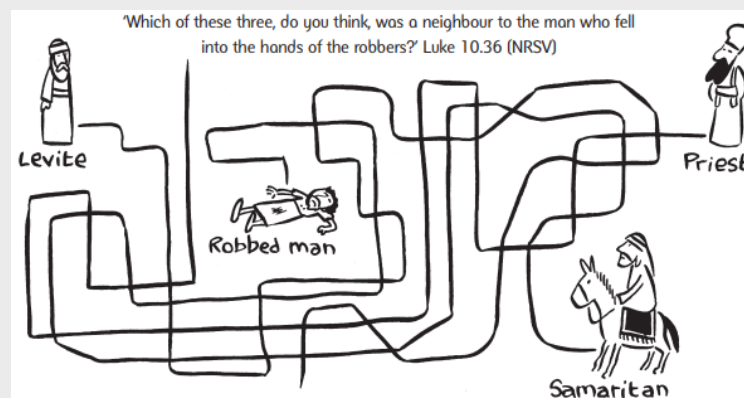


For Advent this year the Methodist Church nationwide are launching a campaign on 1st December. The message is centred on the truth that God is with us at all times. It will feature 24 stories sharing people's experience of God being with them over the year. If you have a story that you would like to share, please be in touch.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### Activity:

Follow the line to see you who helps the robbed man.



### Read or watch:

As a family, read or watch the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 15:27-35)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that it is really important for us to be kind and helpful to everyone.

### Think:

How can you be a good neighbour at this time?

How can you show kindness?

### Craft:

Find a piece of paper and draw around your hand.

On the hand that you have drawn, on the palm write

"Love God, Love neighbour"

then on the thumb and four fingers write our draw something to show how you can be a good neighbour.

### Pray

Loving God,

help me to show love and kindness to all,

especially when I find it difficult

help me to be a good neighbour. Amen.

## Can you contribute to TOGETHER?

We're looking to produce this Newsletter as a Circuit and would like to widen the team as far as possible. Perhaps you could contribute a prayer, a short article, an encouraging piece. Maybe you would be willing to be part of the editorial team? Perhaps you'd like us to advertise something in your church.

If you would like to join the team or make a one-off contribution, please get in touch with Revd Peter Hibberts by email ([Peter.Hibberts@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Peter.Hibberts@methodist.org.uk)) or telephone (01636 812166).

Contributions must be received by Monday of each week for Tuesday editorial and Wednesday distribution.